

AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application..

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for designing an application, comprising:

- (a) receiving metadata and a policy;
- (b) dynamically constructing a user-interface in accordance with the policy;

and

- (c) creating the application through the user-interface wherein (c) comprises:
 - (i) creating a representation of the application, the representation having a stage, the stage having at least one component; and
 - (ii) compiling the representation of the application in concert with the policy.

2. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the user interface supports a design surface with a toolbox and wherein the toolbox has a plurality of available components.

3. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 2, wherein ~~(c) comprises:~~

- ~~(i) —creating a representation of the application, the representation having a stage, the stage further comprises having~~ at least one component selected from the plurality of available components of the toolbox.

4. **(Canceled)**

5. **(Original)** The method of claim 3, wherein the representation is displayed in a graphical format.

6. **(Canceled)**
7. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 16, wherein (b) comprises:
 - (i) categorizing each component to one of a plurality of stages.
8. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 16, wherein the stage includes a first component and a second component, and wherein (b) comprises:
 - (i) determining an ordering of the first component and the second component.
9. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 16, wherein (b) comprises:
 - (i) determining a cardinality of the stage.
10. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 16, wherein one of the at least one component is associated with a plurality of properties.
11. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 10, wherein (c) further comprises:
 - (iii) selecting one of the plurality of properties.
12. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 16, wherein (b) comprises:
 - (i) discovering the at least one component that resides on a computer, the computer supporting the user-interface.
13. **(Canceled)**
14. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 13, wherein the representation of the application is expressed as an extensible markup language (XML) file.

15. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 13, wherein (c) further comprises:
- (iii) in response to (ii), executing a plurality of computer-executable instructions.
16. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 13, wherein (c) further comprises:
- (iii) determining whether an error exists in the representation.
17. **(Original)** The method of claim 16, wherein (c) further comprises:
- (iv) in response to (iii), indicating a determined component and a determined stage corresponding to the error.
18. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 16, wherein the stage is associated with a plurality of components, and wherein (c) further comprises:
- (iii) selecting a matched component from the plurality components, the matched component first matching a document being processed.
19. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 16, wherein the stage is associated with a plurality of components, and wherein (c) further comprises:
- (iii) determining whether the plurality of components shall be sequentially ordered.
20. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein (c) comprises:
- (iii) receiving a command from the user:
- (iv) in response to (iii), indicating whether the command corresponds to a permitted operation for manipulating a representation of the application.

21. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein (a) comprises:
- (i) selecting the policy from a plurality of policies.
22. **(Previously Presented)** A physical computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 1.
23. **(Previously Presented)** A physical computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 3.
24. **(Previously Presented)** A physical computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 12.
25. **(Previously Presented)** A physical computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 18.
26. **(Previously Presented)** A physical computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 19.
27. **(Currently Amended)** A system for designing an application, comprising:
- a policy module that stores metadata, the metadata representing a set of rules that is associated with the application;
 - a user-interface module that generates a design surface, the design surface specifying the application to create the application;
 - a composition logic module that receives the metadata from the policy module and that restrains the design surface to be consistent with the metadata when displaying a representation of the application through the user-interface module; and

an input module that receives a command from a user to manipulate the design surface and that updates the design surface, through the composition logic module, in accordance with the command; and

a compiler module that is coupled to the policy module and that transforms the representation into a set of computer-executable instructions, the set of computer-executable instructions being consistent with the metadata contained in the policy module.

28. **(Original)** The system of claim 27, wherein the user-interface module comprises a display interface to a video display device, the video display device showing the design surface to the user.

29. **(Canceled)**

30. **(Original)** The system of claim 29, further comprising:

an execution engine that executes the set of computer-executable instructions.

31. **(Original)** The system of claim 27, further comprising:

a memory that stores software, the software supporting a component, wherein the composition logic module discovers the component and provides a display indicator that is associated with the component.

32. **(Original)** The system of claim 27, wherein the policy module is co-located with the user-interface module.

33. **(Original)** The system of claim 27, wherein the policy module is remotely located from the user-interface module.

34. **(Canceled)**

35. **(Canceled)**

36. **(Canceled)**

37. **(Canceled)**

38. **(Previously Presented)** A method for designing an application, comprising:

- (a) receiving metadata that is contained in a policy;
- (b) dynamically constructing a user-interface in accordance with the policy,

the user-interface supporting a design surface for a creation of the application and a toolbox with a plurality of available components;

- (c) creating a representation of the application, the representation having at least one stage, each stage having at least one component selected from the plurality of available components by a user;

- (d) compiling the representation of the application in concert with the policy;

and

- (e) in response to (d), executing a set of computer-executable instructions.